Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Abstract of an Accident

92-9

ACCIDENT TYPE:	Electric Shock
INJURY:	Temporary memory loss and burns to hands and feet.
TYPES OF WORK:	Painting housing unit.
EQUIPMENT:	Aluminum ladder.
SAFETY EQUIPMENT:	None in use at time of accident.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:
Worker lost control while moving a long aluminum ladder. Worker received 7620 volt, 114 amp shock while trying to keep ladder from falling back into nearby powerline.

DIRECT CAUSE:
Proper handling practices and clearance procedures were not maintained to remove risk of electric shock.

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES:
- Contractor did not emphasize risk of working in area of high voltage.
- Contractor did not enforce proper handling practices for long, heavy ladders.
- Victim did not fully appreciate danger of working with aluminum ladders in area of high voltage.

LESSONS LEARNED:
- Contractor's safety plan should be detailed enough to include all possible occupational hazards.
- Non-conductive ladders and tolls should be used in vicinity of high voltage.
- Regular toolbox training sessions should address anticipated hazards for particular job operations.
- The buddy system should be enforced for all operations where there is the risk of catastrophic accidents.
- Safety procedures and established safety practices are essential and should be followed without deviation.

Your **SAFETY** contact is...